



LUMMI INDIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

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DEPARTMENT _____ DIRECT NO. _____

May 15, 2009

Mr. Peter Goldmark,
Commissioner of Public Lands
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 47000
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504-7000

SUBJECT: Lummi Nation Issues with the DNR Aquatic Reserves Program

Dear Commissioner Goldmark,

I am writing to ensure that you are aware of and understand the reasons behind the Lummi Nation position regarding the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve.

As we have expressed on numerous occasions over the years, the Lummi Nation agrees with the overall goal of the Aquatic Reserve Program, which is to ensure environmental protection, preservation, and enhancement of state-owned aquatic lands that will provide direct and indirect benefits to aquatic resources. However, we believe that this program goal can be achieved through the existing regulatory structure and that we can obtain the same level of protection of our interests by allocating our limited staff resources to the regulatory/permitting process.

In addition to this resource allocation issue, the Lummi Nation generally opposes marine protected areas such as aquatic reserves because of concerns that they could eventually result in actions to restrict harvest and/or access that would diminish our treaty rights without our consent or mitigation. Consequently, we oppose the designation of the Cherry Point area and other areas within our Usual and Accustomed fishing grounds and stations as Aquatic Reserves.

I would like to have a government-to-government meeting with you to discuss both the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve and hunting access. Please contact me (360-384-2225 or merlej@lummi-nsn.gov) to schedule a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Merle Jefferson, Executive Director
Lummi Natural Resources Department